REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are presently pending in this application. Claims 3 and 11-22 have been canceled without prejudice in an effort to expedite prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute one or more of the canceled claims in a later filed copending application. Claim 1 has been amended herein to more particularly point out and define the subject matter regarded as inventive. No new matter has been added to the subject application, nor has any new issue been raised by these amendments. Support for these amendments is found throughout the specification and drawings of the subject application.

RESPONSE TO DETAILED ACTION

Objections to Specification

The Examiner objected to the Abstract and the disclosure itself, because of certain informalities and/or typographical errors. Appropriate amendments have been made to the Abstract and to the disclosure itself to overcome these noted objections. Withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims

In the Office Action, Claims 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 13-14 have been cancelled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, which should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,458,631 to Xavier.

Xavier discloses an epidural catheter having an elongated body 12 with four ring electrodes 14 at the distal end thereof. The proximal end of body 12 has a canted section 24, which protects wires 16. The remainder of the proximal portion of body 12 defines an injection portal 26 adapted to engage a threaded syringe fitting. Xavier does not disclose a detachable ported connector for use with the injection portal 26.

In contrast, amended Claim 1 defines an implantable cardiac lead having, among other things, an elongated lead body with opposed proximal and distal end portions and at least one lumen extending therethrough, an electrode assembly operatively associated with the distal end portion of the lead body for stimulating cardiac tissue, a connector assembly operatively associated with the proximal end portion of the lead body for engaging a corresponding receptacle of a pulse generating device, and a detachable ported connector fitting. More particularly, the connector assembly has an engagement stem depending therefrom, through which extends the at least one lumen of the lead body. The engagement stem includes a proximal tip portion and a threaded engagement portion distal to the proximal tip portion.

The ported connector fitting has a body with an engagement bore for receiving the engagement stem of the connector assembly. The engagement bore has a proximal receiving section configured to receive the proximal tip portion of the engagement stem and a threaded engaging section distal to the proximal receiving section of the bore, which is configured to engage the threaded engagement portion of the engagement stem. The ported connector also has at least one passageway extending therethrough, in communication with the engagement bore, for delivering fluid into the at least one lumen of the lead body through the engagement stem of the connector assembly. Xavier does not disclose or suggest such a structural arrangement.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 and Claim 5, which depends from Claim 1, are not anticipated by Xavier. Claims 3, 11 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the instant rejection with respect thereto. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 4-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a, e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0077684 to Clemens et al.

Clemens et al. disclose a lead 10 having a body 12 with a tip electrode 16 and an inflatable balloon 18 at a distal end thereof. A terminal 50 is provided at the proximal end of lead body 12 for coupling the lead 10 to a pulse generator. Terminal 50 has sealing rings 52 and a terminal pin 54. Lead 10 also includes an adapter 58 for coupling to terminal pin 54, which may include a side arm 60 for receiving a syringe to inject fluid into the inner lumen of the lead body 12 to inflate the balloon 18. The connection between the terminal pin 54 and the adapter 58 is not well defined or illustrated by Clemens et al., and in any event, it is definitely not a threaded connection.

In contrast, amended Claim 1 defines an implantable cardiac lead having, among other things, an elongated lead body having opposed proximal and distal end portions and having at least one lumen extending therethrough, an electrode assembly operatively associated with the distal end portion of the lead body for stimulating cardiac tissue, a connector assembly operatively associated with the proximal end portion of the lead body for engaging a corresponding receptacle of a pulse generating device, and a detachable ported connector fitting. More particularly, the connector assembly has an engagement stem depending therefrom,

through which extends the at least one lumen of the lead body. The engagement stem includes a proximal tip portion and a threaded engagement portion distal to the proximal tip portion.

The ported connector fitting has a body with an engagement bore for receiving the engagement stem of the connector assembly. The engagement bore has a proximal receiving section configured to receive the proximal tip portion of the engagement stem and a threaded engaging section distal to the proximal receiving section of the bore, which is configured to engage the threaded engagement portion of the engagement stem. The ported connector also has at least one passageway extending therethrough, in communication with the engagement bore, for delivering fluid into the at least one lumen of the lead body through the engagement stem of the connector assembly. Clemens et al. do not disclose or suggest such a structural arrangement. Accordingly, Claim 1-2 and 4-10, are not anticipated by Clemens et al. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0077684 to Clemens et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0077683 Westlund et al. Claims 11-18 have been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the instant rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claim 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0077684 to Clemens et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0077683 Westlund et al. and in further view of U. S. Patent 5,868,245 to Alt. Claims 19-22 have been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the instant rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of the claims now pending in the subject application, namely Claims 1-2 and 4-10, are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

Should any further information be required to facilitate allowance of the subject application, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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